

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /139 W

----- 101873

R 281534Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4250

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS UR

SUBJECT: AMALRIK'S RELEASE FROM PRISON

1. AS DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED FROM PRESS REPORTS, SOVIET DISSIDENT WRITER AMALRIK HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM PENAL DETENTION AND IS CURRENTLY AWAITING ASSIGNMENT OF PLACE OF EXILE IN MAGADAN OBLAST. LOCAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT HIS WIFE HAS FLOWN TO MAGADAN TO JOIN HIM IN EXILE, AND THAT HIS PERIOD OF EXILE WILL BE SOMEWHAT CURTAILED DUE TO PROVISION THAT TIME IN DETENTION CAN BE APPLIED AGAINST EXILE AT MORE THAN ONE-TO-ONE RATE.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SCANDINAVIAN CORRESPONDENT, IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS COMMUTED AMALRIK'S SENTENCE FROM IMPRISONMENT TO EXILE AS RESULT OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED HUNGER STRIKE UPON WHICH AMALRIK HAD EMBARKED. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PAVEL LITVINOV ON NOVEMBER 25, AMALRIK REVEALED THAT HIS HUNGER STRIKE HAD LASTED FOR 117 DAYS PRIOR TO HIS RELEASE. SOVIETS HAD RESORTED TO FORCED FEEDING TO PROVIDE AMALRIK WITH NECESSARY NOURISHMENT.

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3. COMMENT: IF REPORT ACCURATE, IT FURTHER PROOF THAT

SOVIETS REMAIN SENSITIVE TO IMPACT OF HANDLING OF DISSIDENTS ON WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. FACED WITH DETERMINATION OF AMALRIK IN CONTINUING HUNGER STRIKE, AUTHORITIES PRESUMABLY FELT IT MORE EXPEDIENT TO RELEASE HIM THAN TO RISK POSSIBLE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES WHICH COULD LEAD TO WIDESCALE UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY AND SPOTLIGHT ON SOVIET TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS.

DUBS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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